Message

From: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan [Wahlstrom-Ramler.Meghan@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/6/2019 1:08:42 PM
To: White, Roshanna [White.Roshanna@epa.gov]; Ferry, Rol [Ferry.Roland@epa.gov]
CC: Holliman, Daniel [Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Velella Epsilon EA Changes

Rol has been out for the past week but I think these changes capture conversations we have had in the past (see below highlighted in blue). I took the 300 – 500 m statement from the ODCE document. If you use a different word than minimal, feel free to change it.

Basically, this is a short term project and the cage moves around with the current. When CASS did their modeling they assumed full production capacity and a set cage location for the entire project and even then no real impact we noted.

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From: White, Roshanna <White.Roshanna@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Ferry, Rol <Ferry.Roland@epa.gov>
Cc: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan <Wahlstrom-Ramler.Meghan@epa.gov>; Holliman, Daniel <Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov>
Subject: Velella Epsilon EA Changes

Rol:
The buffer for the cage will be changed to 500 m in the permit and other documents. How would you like to proceed with the change in the buffer in regard to these statements in the EA?

4.2.2 Sediment Quality

"Studies of offshore aquaculture operations in the Mediterranean showed that the severe effects of organic inputs from fish farming on benthic macrofauna are limited to up to 25 m from the edge of the cages (Lampadariou, Karakassis, & Pearson, 2005) although the influence of carbon and nitrogen from farm effluents in sea floor can be detected in a wide area about 1,000 m from the cages (Sara, Scilipoti, Mazzola, & Modica, 2004)."

5.4.2 Sediment Quality

"As discussed in *Section 4.2.2 Sediment Quality*, numerous studies within the Mediterranean have shown that organic inputs from fish farms on benthic macrofaunal are only limited up to 25 m from the edge of the cages (Lampadariou, Karakassis, & Pearson, 2005) and carbon and nitrogen produced by fish farm effluents on the sea floor is detected in an area about 1,000 m from the cages (Sara, Scilipoti, Mazzola, & Modica, 2004)."

"...Additionally, waste from ships could contribute to cumulative impacts associated with organic and inorganic pollution. It is unlikely that organic and nitrogen from land-based discharges would reach the proposed facility 45 miles offshore. Conversely, the effluent from the cages will have minimal impact and would not travel past 1,000 m to incrementally combine with these other organic and nitrogen laden discharges to cause a cumulative impact. The majority of the impacts are anticipated to be within 300-500 m from the perimeter of the cage."

5.5.6 Essential Fish Habitat

"Additionally, waste from ships could contribute to cumulative impacts associated with organic and inorganic pollution. It is unlikely that organic and nitrogen from land-based discharges would reach the proposed facility 45 miles off shore. Conversely, the effluent from the cages will have minimal impact and would not travel past 1,000 m to incrementally combine with these other organic and nitrogen laden discharges to cause a cumulative impact. The majority of the impacts are anticipated to be within 300-500 m from the perimeter of the cage."

Roshanna
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